

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1070

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2055

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, CH

SUBJECT: EC/PRC NEGOTIATIONS

1. AN EC COMMISSION SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE EC'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRC ON A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT ARE FOR THE PRESENT MOVING SLOWLY IF AT ALL. AFTER THE CHINESE FAILED TO RESPOND TO THE EC COMMISSION'S OFFER TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION FROM PEKING EARLIER IN THE YEAR, THE CHINESE ATTEMPTED TO BEGIN FAIRLY GENERAL DISCUSSIONS USING, FOR THEIR PART, OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE PRC MISSION TO THE EC. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THIS HAS BEEN OF ONLY LIMITED USEFULNESS IN THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO BRUSSELS-BASED DIPLOMATS WERE "QUITE INFLEXIBLE" AND NECESSITATED A CONSTANT CHECKING AND RE-CHECKING PROCESS WITH PEKING. THE CHINESE, WHILE INITIALLY SAYING THEY WISHED TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MODEL BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT PROPOSED BY THE EC, NOW APPEAR TO BE AIMING FOR A VERY GENERAL PACT OF THE TYPE WHICH THEY HAVE CONCLUDED WITH CANADA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. SO FAR THE ONLY SPECIFIC SUBJECT BROUGHT UP BY THE CHINESE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THEIR EXPORTS OF CANNED

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MUSHROOMS AND GREEN BEANS TO THE COMMUNITY. IN AN

EFFORT TO MOVE THINGS ALONG, EC COMMISSION VICE
PRESIDENT SOAMES HAS WRITTEN TO PRC FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTER LI CH'ANG URGING GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON
THE CHINESE SIDE. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
THE COMMISSION HOPES THE NEW PRC AMBASSADOR TO THE
EC, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, WHOM THE BELGIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY ANNOUNCED WOULD ARRIVE ON APRIL 29, WILL
BRING NEW AND MORE FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS.

2. THE CHINESE HAVE APPARENTLY NOT RESPONDED TO THE
COMMISSION'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY ALSO NEGOTIATE AN
AGREEMENT REGARDING TEXTILE TRADE ALONG THE LINES OF
AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED UNDER THE MULTI FIBER AGREE-
MENT.

3. DESPITE THE SLOWNESS OF PROGRESS, OUR SOURCES
CONTINUE TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT AN AGREEMENT, OF
HOWEVER GENERAL A NATURE, CAN BE CONCLUDED WITH THE
CHINESE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. HINTON

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